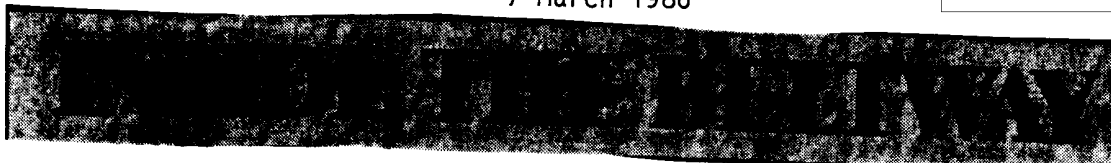


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A heated exchange

Treasury Secretary James Baker and Rep. Frank Wolf, Virginia Republican, lost their tempers yesterday and the result was a loud verbal sparring match. The sparks flew when Mr. Wolf pressed Mr. Baker, who is ultimately in charge of the U.S. Customs Service, to act more forcefully to ban imports from countries that engage in slave labor, notably the Soviet Union.

"Bring a case..." Mr. Wolf shouted. "The CIA people will tell you there is proof. Your people know there's proof. Customs know there's proof." He then accused Mr. Baker of "shirking your responsibility"

"I don't plan to bring a case if I get shouted at one more time by you," Mr. Baker shot back.

"I'm telling you right now, you bring a case. That's what the law is, and you're obligated to enforce the law," Mr. Wolf said.

"I have been trying to cooperate with you, but maybe I just ought to cease that cooperation," Mr. Baker replied. "I don't come up here to get yelled at."

"I'm telling you right now you have an obligation to bring a case," Mr. Wolf yelled. "Those people have been in labor camps for years."

"I'll be the judge of what my obligation is, and you won't," Mr. Baker said.

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